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研究課題名(和文) Revisiting the growth and poverty effects of remittances in the African context

研究課題名(英文)Revisiting the growth and poverty effects of remittances in the African context

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研究成果の概要(和文):この研究は、COVID-19の間にインドネシアの中小企業(SME)の回復力を強化する上で送金の重要な役割を強調しており、送金が政府支援よりも効果的であることが判明しました。これは、危機時における企業存続には公的支援が最も重要であるという見解に挑戦するものです。理論モデルは、非金銭的送金を通じた起業家精神の発展と貧困削減を予測しており、日本にいるフィリピン人移民からの調査データによって確認されました。非金銭的送金は、金銭的送金単独よりも起業家の成功に直接的な影響を与えます。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

This research is the first to analyze non-monetary remittances at micro and macroeconomic levels. Findings underscore remittances' broader implications beyond financial transfers. Development plans should incorporate non-monetary remittances, leveraging them for entrepreneurship and growth.

研究成果の概要(英文): The research highlights the crucial role of remittances in boosting SME resilience in Indonesia during COVID-19, finding that remittances were more effective than government aid. This challenges the view that public support is paramount for business survival during crises. Theoretical modeling predicts entrepreneurship development and poverty alleviation through non-monetary remittances, confirmed by survey data from Filipino migrants in Japan. Non-monetary remittances have a more direct impact on entrepreneurial success than monetary remittances alone. The study emphasizes upskilling the workforce, especially in digital skills. To harness non-monetary remittances' full potential, it recommends developing programs for skill transfer and incorporating these resources into national development plans. Additionally, skilled labor and technological readiness, particularly in ICT and AI, maximize remittance benefits but may lead to income inequality.

研究分野: Development Economics

キーワード: Remittances Economic growth Technological progress Entrepreneurship Technological readin

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1.研究開始当初の背景

Although remittances have become the largest source of external financing for many African countries, there remains a significant gap in empirical research regarding their effects on economic growth and poverty alleviation through ICT-based microfinancial channels. This research aims to bridge this gap by investigating the impact of remittances on economic growth and poverty reduction using a dual approach. First, it develops a theoretical framework integrating a modified economic growth model. Second, it conducts field surveys of both micro-financial institutions and recipient households. Utilizing recently available datasets on migrants' remittances, this study extends Romer's benchmark New Growth Model to include the effects of migrants' remittances and ICT. This comprehensive approach allows a deeper exploration of how remittances can drive economic development and reduce poverty through modern financial technologies.

2.研究の目的

The present research initially focused on the influence of migrants' remittances and technology-readiness on economic growth and poverty reduction in African low-income countries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic made implementing field surveys in the targeted African countries unfeasible. In response, the research quickly focused on Indonesia, investigating the moderating role of remittances in mitigating the pandemic's effects on the resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This pivot not only addresses the immediate impacts of the pandemic but also provides invaluable insights into the broader economic benefits of remittances in times of crisis. Furthermore, the research was expanded to include remittance-sending-migrant behaviors, focusing on non-monetary remittance forms in promoting home country entrepreneurship. In addition, the macroeconomic perspective of the research was adjusted to include rising technology trends such as digitalization and Al-technology readiness.

3.研究の方法

Methodology-wise, the research was designed with three key approaches. First, a theoretical model incorporates a utility function reflecting remittance-sending migrants' decisions, assessing the likelihood of entrepreneurship development and poverty reduction. The model examines how these different forms influence entrepreneurial investment choices by distinguishing between monetary and non-monetary remittances. Using a utility maximization framework, it provides insights into scenarios where non-monetary remittances are more effective entrepreneurial activities than monetary ones. Second, an econometric analysis evaluates the growth effects of remittances and technological channels, using proxies like non-monetary remittances and technology readiness. Based on a modified semiendogenous growth framework, theoretical predictions are derived and empirically tested using the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) estimator. This assessment includes analyzing the impact of AI technology absorption on economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, using indicators such as the ratio of technology-intensive imports, Altechnology absorptive capacity, readiness, Industrial Activity Index, and ICT. Third, a questionnaire-based survey investigates how remittances enhance the resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey targets significantly affected SMEs, using stratified random sampling. Data collection involved questionnaires and interviews focusing on business continuity, financial support, and adaptive strategies, analyzed using a Structural Equation Model framework. This method also applies to assessing the effects of non-monetary remittances on entrepreneurship development among Filipino migrants in Japan, providing firsthand insights into their remittance behaviors and their impact on entrepreneurship. Overall, this research is the first to measure non-monetary remittances at both the micro-level (using indices built on survey data) and the macro-economic level (using a weighted index based on capital-goods imports and migrants' human capital).

4. 研究成果

First, the research underscores the crucial role of remittances in enhancing the

resilience of SMEs in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. It found that severely impacted SMEs had lower resilience levels, making them more vulnerable to shocks. Remittances and public support facilitated quicker recovery and better adaptive strategies, with remittances proving more effective than government aid. This challenges the prevailing view that public support is paramount for business survival during crises. Second, theoretical modeling predicts a high likelihood of entrepreneurship development and poverty alleviation through non-monetary remittances. This was confirmed by survey data from Filipino migrants in Japan, highlighting the significant impact of non-monetary remittances-such as skills, knowledge, and physical goods—on entrepreneurship. Importantly, this is the first research to theoretically and empirically analyze non-monetary remittances at microeconomic and macroeconomic levels. Findings show that non-monetary remittances have a more direct impact on entrepreneurial success than monetary remittances. Entrepreneurs receiving nonmonetary support may show higher business survival rates and growth metrics, indicating a more sustainable form of economic development. Additionally, migrant-derived skills and knowledge can lead to higher innovation rates within recipient communities, resulting in adopting new business practices, technologies, and methods that financial support alone cannot facilitate. Non-monetary remittances also lead to a broader diversification of economic activities, reducing economic vulnerability and reliance on a limited number of sectors, thus fostering a more robust and adaptable local economy. Third, the analysis of the growth effects of remittances and technology readiness highlighted the importance of skilled labor and technological readiness, particularly in ICT and AI, in maximizing the growth benefits of remittances. Such benefits are likely to lead to income inequality in developing countries. Based on such a risk, the study emphasizes the need to upskill the workforce, especially in digital and Al-compatible skills. Fourth, to harness the full potential of non-monetary remittances, it is urgent to develop and promote programs that facilitate the transfer of skills, knowledge, and physical goods from migrants to their home countries. This includes online platforms for skill-sharing, training programs, and logistical support for sending physical goods. National development plans should explicitly recognize and incorporate the value of non-monetary remittances, aiming to leverage these resources for sustainable economic development and entrepreneurship support. Investing in educational programs that align with the skills being transferred through non-monetary remittances ensures that the local workforce can fully utilize and build upon the skills and knowledge from abroad. Overall, the findings and recommendations highlight the broader implications of remittances beyond financial transfers, suggesting a shift toward a more holistic understanding of the resources migrants contribute to their home countries. Noteworthy, unexpected events during the research, such as the rapid evolution of digital financial services during the pandemic, provided new insights into the adaptability of financial technologies in enhancing SME resilience. This highlighted the synergy between financial technology advancements and traditional remittance channels supporting economic stability. Future research should explore the potential impact of rapidly emerging digital and AI technologies on economic growth, labor skills, and income distribution in developing countries.

| 5 | 主な発表論文等 |
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〔雑誌論文〕 計0件

| (学会発表) | 計1件 | (うち招待護演 | 0件/うち国際学会 | 1件) |
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2 . 発表標題

Effects of Imported Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and Logistics on Economic Growth

3 . 学会等名

Western Economic Association (国際学会)

4 . 発表年

2022年

〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

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| | | 氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号) | 所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号) | 備考 |

7.科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

| ‡ | 共同研究相手国 | 相手方研究機関 |
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